

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor for me to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of the Danville Schlarmen Girls Basketball Team in winning the 2018 IHSA Class 1A State Title. I wish the team and their coach all the best in the future.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DUBLIN
VICE MAYOR DON BIDDLE

HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 2018

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life of Dublin Vice Mayor Don Biddle. We lost Don on February 21, 2018 at the age of 80. Don lived in the city of Dublin, California for 44 years and worked tirelessly to serve his community.

After serving four years on the Dublin Planning Commission, Don was appointed as a member of the Dublin City Council in 2008 and retained his seat in subsequent elections. It was my privilege to serve alongside Don on the City Council from 2010 to 2013. His colleagues repeatedly recognized Don's character and commitment by nominating him to serve as Vice Mayor on multiple occasions.

His achievements as a city councilmember received national acclaim. One of Don's proudest achievements was the redevelopment of the former federal housing project, Arroyo Vista, into the region's largest mixed-income housing development, Emerald Vista. He was a consistent champion of affordable housing who also worked to develop an apartment complex tailored to the needs of active military members, veterans, and their families. Don's leadership led Dublin to be named an "All American City" while he was on city council.

Don also was steadfast in his commitment to children, serving as a school board trustee for 12 years. As a trustee, he was instrumental in the creation of the Dublin Unified School District and was a leader in the rebuilding and improvement of the city's aging schools. Beyond the school board, he remained passionate about education, serving the Dublin Partners in Education for nearly two decades, including as president and board member.

Don served as an active representative of the Dublin community, on a variety of commissions throughout Alameda County. Additionally, Don supported the growth of non-profit organizations within Dublin such as the School of Imagination, Dublin Rotary Club, Dublin Integrity in Action, the YMCA, the American Cancer Society, and Hope Hospice.

Throughout his life, Don selflessly served the greater Tri-Valley community. I am grateful to have known Don Biddle, and he has left behind an unforgettable legacy of kindness, charity and service. My thoughts and prayers are with his family, and he will forever be remembered for his invaluable contributions to the community.

IN RECOGNITION OF FIRE CHIEF
KENNETH BRISCOE

HON. MARK MEADOWS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 2018

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Chief Kenneth Briscoe of Caldwell County, North Carolina. On behalf of the people of Lenoir, I congratulate Chief Briscoe on his retirement and thank him for 23 years of service to Caldwell County, and 45 years of service to North Carolina.

Chief Briscoe began his career in 1973 as a volunteer firefighter in Hudson, North Carolina. He joined the Lenoir Fire Department as a paid firefighter in 1975 and was promoted to Captain in 1983. Chief Briscoe joined the North Carolina Department of Insurance in 1984 and was made the Deputy Director of the North Carolina Department of Insurance and the Fire and Rescue Commission. Chief Briscoe left the North Carolina Department of Insurance in 2004 to become the Chief of the Lenoir Fire Department.

During his career, Chief Briscoe has received many awards and honors for his exceptional service. In 2007, Chief Briscoe was selected Fireman of the Year by the North Carolina State Fireman's Association and was also recognized by the North Carolina State Senate for his outstanding service to North Carolina and the City of Lenoir. Chief Briscoe has been recognized by this Congress on three separate occasions for his service to the people of Lenoir and the State of North Carolina. In 2011, Chief Briscoe was awarded the National Chief Fire Officer designation and was made a member of the Institution of Fire Engineers. Furthermore, Chief Briscoe has attained many certifications through the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress.

Chief Briscoe was the first member of the North Carolina Association of Fire Chiefs to serve as President and Past President for two terms. As President of the North Carolina Association of Fire Chiefs, he represented over 1,500 fire chiefs and 45,000 firefighters. Chief Briscoe has also served as the Vice-Chairman of the North Carolina Fire and Rescue Commission. In 2014, Chief Briscoe was aptly named Western North Carolina Fire Officer of the Year. Western North Carolina is proud to have such an accomplished and caring public servant. Chief Briscoe is married to his wife, Paula, and they have one son, Joe.

Chief Briscoe's long list of awards and accomplishments does not paint the full-picture of the meaningful impact he has made on Caldwell County and the State of North Carolina. For his service to Western North Carolina, I am honored to express the gratitude and best wishes of the people of North Carolina to Chief Briscoe on his retirement.

HONORING CIVIL RIGHTS ICON
ANNE MOODY

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 2018

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the late Civil Rights icon, Anne Moody.

Ms. Moody was a native of Centreville, Mississippi, and was vital to the Civil Rights Movement in the state. While a student at Tougaloo College, she became heavily involved in organizations, such as Congress of Racial Equality (CORE), National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), and Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC). In 1963, Moody became a pivotal figure in the Civil Rights Movement when newspapers featured a photograph of her participation in a sit-in at Woolworth's lunch counter in Jackson, Mississippi. Ms. Moody is best remembered for her best-selling novel "Coming Age of Mississippi" released in 1968.

During the last years of her life, Ms. Moody suffered from dementia. On February 5, 2015 at 74-years-old, she passed away.

Today, we honor the life and legacy of Ms. Anne Moody and family.

MARCH 2, 1836—TEXAS
INDEPENDENCE DAY

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 2018

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, independence came to Texas differently than it did for the 13 colonies. Let me explain.

Texas was a part of Spain for over 100 years when Mexico fought a successful revolution in 1820 against Spain to form a democracy, which included Texas. However, Santa Anna, the president of Mexico, declared himself Dictator of Mexico and he abolished the Mexican constitution. This was unacceptable to people living in Texas—both Anglos and Tejanos (Texas-born Mexicans). Dissension against the government spread through Texas.

War broke out in 1835 in the small town of Gonzales when a detachment from the Mexican army tried to take a cannon from the townspeople. The cannon was for protection against hostile Indian raids on the community. Shots rang out between the Mexican army and the armed townspeople. There were a few wounded on both sides, and neither side claimed victory.

Skirmishes continued between both sides. The Texians, as they were called, drove out the Mexican army from the town of Bexar—now called San Antonio. A small Texian army of volunteers occupied the Alamo in February 1836 in Bexar, under the command of Lieutenant Colonel William Barratt Travis—a 27-year-old lawyer from South Carolina. Other Texian volunteers took the town of Goliad under Texian Colonel James Fannin. General Sam Houston was the commander of all Texian forces in the struggle for independence.

Meanwhile, on March 2, 1836 (ironically Sam Houston's birthdate), "officials"—both Anglos and Tejanos—from Texas gathered in a place called Washington on the Brazos, and declared independence from the Dictatorship of Mexico. The Republic of Texas was born.

However, the defenders in the Alamo fell on March 6, 1836, and Fannin was defeated and he and his men were executed by the Mexican army.

General Sam Houston continued to rebuild a Texas army and marched east towards the marches of San Jacinto (near present day Houston, Texas).

On April 21, 1836 the Texas army surprised and met the vastly larger army of Santa Anna, and defeated it in a brutal, but short, 18-minute battle. Santa Anna was captured along with half of his army. The rest were casualties of the battle. The Texian losses were minimal.

The Texas war for independence and freedom was successful.

Texas remained a Republic for nine years then was admitted to the Union in 1845, by the slim vote margin of one.

The rest, they say, is Texas history.

And that's just the way it is.

RECOGNIZING JUDGE DANIEL HEATH

HON. JIM BANKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 2018

Mr. BANKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Allen County Judge Daniel Heath and to congratulate him on his retirement. For years Judge Heath has been an integral figure in our community. After graduating from what is now the Indiana University McKinney School of Law in Indianapolis, Judge Heath and his family returned to Fort Wayne, wherein he began his career in public service.

Judge Heath took a job as a District Representative for then-Congressman Dan Coats. In this capacity, Judge Heath managed an outstanding constituent service operation that served the people of northeast Indiana. Judge Heath then served as Fort Wayne Mayor Paul Helmke's Chief of Staff and Safety Director, before running for Congress in 1989. Though he was defeated in a close race, Judge Heath never stopped serving his community. In 1996, he was elected to the bench in Allen County.

Having served in the Civil Division of the Allen Superior Court for 17 years, Judge Heath went on to serve in the family division in 2013. In this role, Judge Heath spearheaded many important initiatives in our community, including the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative, a program designed to lower the number of young offenders incarcerated in Allen County, and BrightSteps, a program designed to enhance early childhood development.

Allen County benefited greatly from Judge Heath's dedication to the community, and we will miss his leadership. I wish him and his family the best in his retirement and future endeavors.

RICHMOND POLICE DEPARTMENT HONORS DEDICATION OF EM- PLOYEES AND CITIZENS

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 2018

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the men and women honored by the Richmond Police Department at their annual awards banquet last month.

The banquet honors dedicated employees and citizens committed to the mission of the Richmond Police Department. Each Division

Commander picks someone from their division to honor. Officer James Williams was named 2017 Officer of the Year and Officer Vladimir Golovine was named 2017 Employee of the Year. The department awarded the Business Sponsor of the Year to The Church of Rosenberg for outstanding support to the department during 2017. Josh Landry was honored as 2017 Citizen of the Year. Also receiving awards were Rookie of the Year Officer Ruben Robles, Top Gun Division Winner Officer Robert Oliver, Co-Detective of the Year Detective John Dawson, Top Gun Division Winner and Overall Champion Sgt. Steven Rychlik, Co-Detective of the Year & Top Gun Division Winner Detective David Childs, Top Gun Division Winner Detective Andrew Runge and Telecommunicator of the Year Danell Gaydos. Our communities are safer thanks to strong police departments and the critical organizations that support them. Thank you to each of these honorees.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to the Richmond Police Department honorees. I thank them for all they do to keep the Richmond community safe.

ASHLYNEE MIKE AMBER ALERT IN INDIAN COUNTRY ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. NORMA J. TORRES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 26, 2018

Mrs. TORRES. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend the United States Congress for taking the right step forward in helping combat the high numbers of children abduction and crime rates in Indian Country.

As a former 911 operator, I know that the AMBER Alert program has led to the rescue of countless lives across the United States—but until now, access to this critical tool has been limited for our tribal communities.

Mr. Speaker, the passage of this bill will give tribes across the United States the ability to respond quickly to child abductions and help ensure the public safety of their citizens. These precious young lives are no less valuable than any others and they deserve to be protected.

Last November, I introduced Savanna's Act as a result of the disturbing increase in murdered and missing Native American women and girls. My bill is named in honor of Savanna LaFontaine-Greywind, a 22-year-old pregnant member of the Spirit Lake Tribe who was tragically murdered.

While I am hopeful that the institution of an AMBER alert program will help bring some much needed relief to this issue, we must do more to address the gap of information sharing between tribal, local, and federal law enforcement agencies. My bill aims to do just that.

Let's keep the momentum going and finally bring full justice to our Native American neighbors.

HONORING FANNIE'S NEST, INC.

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 2018

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a group of innovators who have shown what can be done through hard work, dedication and a desire to serve their community, Fannie's Nest, Inc.

Fannie's Nest, Inc. is a Mississippi based nonprofit organization and with its ministry incorporated on January 22, 2016 by founders Pamela Scott Bracey, PhD and Darrell Scott, Jr. The founders along with several other cousins were interested in carrying out the legacy of "educated communities of Christian unity" instilled by their grandmother, the late Fannie Lee Jones Scott. Fannie was the mother of 12 children, and mother-like figure to several other children in the community of Yazoo City, Mississippi. She also served as a devoted choir leader of Tulane Missionary Baptist Church in Yazoo City for many years until her untimely passing to be with the Lord in 1996.

As a charitable organization and ministry, Fannie's Nest, Inc. vision is to exhibit a sincere hands-on Christian approach to encourage the development of well-rounded youth that grow to make positive impacts in all areas of society. Their mission is to educate, empower, and expose youth to a variety of stimulating experiences with the ultimate goal of nurturing them to soar beyond mediocrity, negative stereotypes, and unfavorable statistics.

The organizers and members of Fannie's Nest, Inc. are committed to designing and implementing innovative mentoring programs, conferences, and events that cater to youth in pursuit of aiding Mississippi students and communities to grow in the following areas: Educational Scholarship, Career Development, Leadership, Service Learning, Financial Education, Physical Fitness, Self-Awareness, Cultural Awareness, Music Appreciation, and Communication.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Fannie's Nest, Inc. for its dedication and desire to serve others and giving back to the community.

HONORING CRECENCIO CRUZ PADILLA

HON. JIMMY PANETTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 2018

Mr. PANETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of a lifelong LULAC member and community activist of the Central Coast community, Crecencio Cruz Padilla.

Born in Mexico City, Mr. Padilla arrived in Monterey County in 1953 and worked as a farmworker for Driscoll's Berries. During the 1960's, Castroville's Head Start Program hired Mr. Padilla as a Community Liaison where he had an opportunity to work with farmworker families. Education was very important to Mr. Padilla, and he decided to take part-time classes at Hartnell College focusing on criminal law. That experience led him to advocate